

## **PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE**

The purpose of the Parliamentary Procedure Contest is to develop the ability to conduct business meetings in an orderly manner.

### **Objectives**

The students will be able to:

1. Use parliamentary procedure to conduct an orderly and efficient meeting.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of parliamentary law.
3. Present a logical, realistic and convincing discussion.

### **Event Rules**

1. The team shall consist of six members including the presiding officer. Each team will designate up to two alternates. The team will be judged 75 percent on its demonstration and 25 percent on a written test and oral questions.
2. The event will have three phases: written examination, a 10-minute team presentation of parliamentary procedure, and oral questions following the presentation.
3. Teams shall draw for order of appearance. No reference material on parliamentary procedure shall be used by a member of the team. A team shall be allowed up to one minute to prepare for their demonstration after entering the contest room.
4. The official in charge of the contest shall:
  - a. Call the judges together at least 30 minutes before the contest begins to acquaint them with their duties and with rules of the contest.
  - b. Provide the judges with a copy of "Robert's Rules or Order."
  - c. Provide the judges with a reference table on motions, containing such factors as rank of motions, majority required, whether debatable, etc.
  - d. Provide the judges the necessary paper and pencils.
5. Participants must appear in official FFA dress during all rounds of the event.
6. The advisor shall not consult with the team after the event begins. The event begins when teams are sequestered to complete the written test.
7. All participants must bring their own pencils (a minimum of two No. 2 pencils).

8. The first, second, third, and fourth place teams will be announced at the State FFA Convention.
9. The topics to be used may come from, but are not limited to, the following list:

Community Service Projects	SAE Project Tour
Cooperative Activities	Redecorate Classroom
FFA Camp	Establish Scholarship Fund
The Washington Leadership Conference	National FFA Week Activities
National FFA Convention	Educational Tour
State FFA Convention	Landscape School Grounds
Business Persons Breakfast	Plant Demonstration Plots

### **Event Format**

#### **Written Test (150 points)**

A written test will consist of 25 objective-type multiple-choice questions or true and false questions covering basic parliamentary law as related to the permissible motions of the event. Thirty minutes will be allowed to complete the test. The individual correct answers of the six team members will be used to compute the total team score in each round. Each team may score a maximum of 150 points.

#### **Oral Questions (100 points)**

Each of the five team members and chairman will be asked a planned question relating to their assigned motion. No one may step forward to help correct answers on the first six questions. Following these six questions, the judges will have two additional minutes to ask questions **for clarification of the presentation**, after which time will be called.

#### **Presentation (750 points)**

1. Teams will draw for order of appearance.
2. The first item on the agenda will be presented on an index card by the event official. It is suggested that this main motion be the first motion presented. All teams in each round will use the same main motion.
3. The event officials will select two subsidiary, two incidental, and one privileged motion or unclassified motion from the list of permissible motions (included in the following pages). These motions will be on an index card placed on a specific chair designated by the event official for that motion. Team members will randomly select a chair without knowledge of the motion. No substitution of chairs will be allowed once selection is made. All teams in each round will be assigned the same motions. Team members will have one minute to review the main motion and the motions to be demonstrated and to identify his/her motion

(which may be noted by bolding, underlining or highlighting). **During the one-minute preparation time team members may not communicate with each other.**

4. There shall be no limitation to the number of subsidiary, incidental, and privileged motions demonstrated except that the team must demonstrate two subsidiary, two incidental, and one privileged or unclassified motion designated by the officials in charge. The team may use more than one main motion as long as it pertains to the assigned topic. A list of the motions used in the national contest is included on the following pages.
5. If the event officials designate the privileged motion "call for orders of the day," as a motion to be demonstrated, an alternate motion not pertaining to the main motion may be used to facilitate the correct demonstration of the motion.
6. The demonstrating team shall assume that a regular chapter meeting is in progress, and the chairperson shall start the presentation by saying, **"Is there any further business that should be presented to the chapter at this time?"** Any team member will then move the main motion assigned to the team.
7. A team shall be allowed a maximum of ten (10) minutes in which to demonstrate its knowledge of parliamentary law without penalty. Warnings will be given at eight (8) and ten (10) minutes. A deduction of 50 points will be made for every 30 seconds over the first 30 seconds or major fraction thereof. A timekeeper will furnish the time used by each team at the close of the event.

#### Time Penalties

Minutes	Points Deducted	Minutes	Points Deducted
10:00-10:30	0	11:31-12:00	150
10:31-11:00	50	12:01-12:30	200
11:01-11:30	100	12:31-13:00	250

#### Sample Motion Card

Main Motion: I move to start the Food for America program on December 1.

Required Motions:

Lay on the Table  
Suspend the Rules  
**Reconsider**

Amend  
Appeal

## Tiebreakers

Tiebreakers for teams will be (in the following order):

- (1) the "Total Points" Presentation score [Section III of Event Scoring card]
- (2) the team's average score on the written test
- (3) the "Total Points" score for oral questions [Section II of Event Scoring card]

## Recommended References

The official text will be the latest edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* (currently 1990 edition) published by Scott, Foresman and Company.

Additional references may include *FFA New Horizons* magazine and the *FFA Student Handbook*.

## **JUDGES' SCORING GUIDELINES**

### Guidelines for Scoring Discussion

Judges for the parliamentary procedure event should observe the following guidelines:

1. It is essential that each judge observe and maintain consistent criteria in scoring discussion for the duration of the event.
2. Judges must overlook personal opinions and beliefs and score discussion in an unbiased manner. All discussion should be scored at the time it is delivered.
3. Characteristics of effective discussion include: (a) completeness of thought, (b) logical reasoning, (c) clear statement of speaker's position, (d) conviction of delivery, and (e) concise and effective statement of discussion.
4. A suggested grading scale is as follows:

Excellent .....	25-30 points
Good .....	21-25 points
Average .....	11-20 points
Poor .....	01-10 points

An excellent discussion would be extremely unusual and would be characterized by a truly stirring delivery and brilliance in terms of information provided and/or suggestions for action offered. Poor discussion would be characterized by a lack of effective delivery, poor grammar, reasoning and substance. An example might be: "I think this is a good idea."

Most discussion would fall in the range of an average score (11-20 points). An example of an average discussion might be: "I think this is a very significant motion that should be passed for the following reasons (new, informative and logically related). For these reasons, I urge everyone to vote for this motion." Good discussion would be characterized by effective delivery, substance, creative and visionary thought delivered in a convincing and compelling manner.

- Each time a participant in the presentation discusses any motion, he or she may earn a score. However, an individual may never earn more than 60 points in a given presentation. Furthermore, no more than 30 points may be earned during one recognition by the chair. An individual receiving an “average” to “good” grading on each motion discussed would need to have been recognized by the chair three to four separate times to earn the maximum 60 points.

The top four debates per member will be tabulated in the presentation score. No more than two debates per member per motion will be tabulated.

- No adjustments to room arrangements will be allowed by teams.

### Guidelines for Scoring the Chair

- Ability to preside--handling of motions, keeping members informed, use of the gavel, distribution of discussion (80 points).
- Leadership--stage presence, poise, self-confidence, politeness, and voice (20 points).

<b>EVENT SCORING</b>			
<i>Phase</i>	<i>Breakdown of Points</i>	<i>Section Points</i>	<i>Total Points</i>
I. Written Test (total correct answers of six members on 25 point written test)	150		150
II. Oral Questions 12 points possible for each member's question Questions in the additional two minutes	72 28		100
III. Presentation			750
Total for five members on floor		500	
Required motion presentation	20		
Discussion (Max. of 30 pts./discussion)	60		
Additional motions made (including main and alternate main)	20		
Chair		100	
Ability to preside	80		
Leadership	20		
General Effect of Team		150	
Conclusion of the team	50		
Discussion	50		
Teams' voice, poise, and expression	50		
IV. Deduction for parliamentary mistakes: 5-20 pts. per mistake; omitting the assigned motion -- 100 pts. Deduction for overtime: 50 pts. for every 30 seconds, or major fraction thereof, over the first 30 seconds			
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>1,000</b>

## CHART OF PERMISSIBLE MOTIONS FOR THE NATIONAL FFA PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENT

Motion	Debate	Amend	Vote Required	Second	Reconsider
<b>Privileged</b>					
Fix time to which to adjourn	No	Yes	Majority	Yes	Yes
Adjourn	No	No	Majority	Yes	No
Recess	No	Yes	Majority	Yes	No
Question of privilege	No	No	None	None	No
Call for orders of the day	No	No	2/3 Not to follow	None	No
<b>Incidental</b>					
Appeal	Yes/No	No	Majority	Yes	Yes
Point of order	No	No	None	No	No
Parliamentary inquiry	No	No	None	No	No
Suspend the rules	No	No	2/3	Yes	No
Withdraw a motion	No	No	Usually none	No	No
Object consideration of question	No	No	2/3	No	Yes, negative vote only
Division of the question	No	Yes	Majority	Yes	No
Division of the assembly	No	No	No	No	No
<b>Subsidiary</b>					
Lay on table	No	No	Majority	Yes	No
Previous question	No	No	2/3	Yes	Yes before vote
Extend or limit debate	No	Yes	2/3	Yes	Yes
Postpone definitely	Yes	Yes	Majority	Yes	Yes
Refer to committee	Yes	Yes	Majority	Yes	Yes
Amend	Yes	Yes	Majority	Yes	Yes
Postpone indefinitely	Yes	No	Majority	Yes	Yes vote only
Main motion	Yes	Yes	Majority	Yes	Yes
<b>Unclassified</b>					
Take from table	No	No	Majority	Yes	No
Reconsider	No/Yes	No	Majority	Yes	No
Rescind	Yes	Yes	Majority, 2/3 if not in writing	Yes	Negative vote only

**PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE TEAM SCORE SHEET Chapter \_\_\_\_\_ Judge \_\_\_\_\_ FORM 2**

Contestants	Required motion	Discussion		Additional motions	Indiv. Questions	Total
	20 pts. max./member	60 pts. max./member, 30 pts. max./item		20 pts. max./member	12 pts. max./member	112 pts. max./member
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
Chair	Ability to Preside 80 points maximum		Leadership 20 points maximum			
Team's General Effect	Conclusion 50 points maximum	Degree to which discussion was convincing, logical, realistic, orderly, and efficient 50 points maximum		Team's, voice, poise and expression 50 points maximum		
Questions at large	Questions for clarification of the presentation (2 minutes allowed) 28 points maximum					
Written test	Average of the six individual scores 150 points maximum					
Deductions	Deductions for parliamentary mistakes 5 to 20 points per mistake-omitting the assigned motion-100 points					
	Deductions for overtime 50 points for every 30 seconds over the first 30 seconds or a major fraction thereof					
	TEAM TOTAL SCORE					

Scoresheet	Perfect Score	Tiebreakers	Motions for the contest are:			
Presentation	600	A. Total Presentation Score	I. Privileged Motions	II. Incidental Motions	III. Subsidiary Motions	IV. Unclassified Motions
General Effect	150	B. Average Score on Written Test	a. Fix the time to which to adjourn.	a. Appeal	a. Lay on table	a. Reconsider
Oral Questions	100	C. Total Questions Score	b. Adjourn	b. Point of order	b. Previous question	b. Rescind
Written Test	150		c. Recess	c. Parliamentary inquiry	c. Limit or extend debate	c. Take from table
			d. Question of privilege	d. Suspend the rules	d. Postpone definitely	
			e. Call for the orders of the day	e. Withdraw a motion	e. Refer to committee	
				f. Object to consideration	f. Amend	
				g. Division of question	g. Postpone indefinitely	
				h. Division of assembly		
TOTAL	1,000					

# TABULATION SHEET FOR RANKING TEAMS

Team/School	Rankings for Highest-Scoring Teams			Total of Rankings (add across)	Final Ranking
	Judge 1	Judge 2	Judge 3		
Team 1					
Team 2					
Team 3					
Team 4					
Team 5					
Team 6					
Team 7					
Team 8					
Team 9					